GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4389
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2003
PROTECTION OF RAIL LINES AND RAILWAY PASSENGERS
RITA VERMA

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by his Ministry and the Directorate General of Mines Safety for protection of rail lines and railway passengers from the dangers of underground fire in coal mines in Jharia coalfields;

(b) the reasons for framing rules by the Directorate for not undertaking coal mining activities around and under the railway lines;

(c) the details in assisting railway and coal companies for the protection of rail lines and railway passengers from these dangers;

(d) whether the Bharat Cooking Coal Limited was warned against the danger of underground fire to Dhanbad Patherdih rail line; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL)

(a): The Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) had issued directions to the managements of Rajapur, Lodna, Bagdigi and Bararee Collieries situated close to Dhanbad - Patherdih railway line for its protection. Thesedirections were given from time to time for taking precautionary measures against the dangers of underground fire. They were asked to take immediate action for stabilization and blanketing of the underground fires in their mines.

(b): The Coal Mine Regulations, 1957 framed under the Mines Act, 1952 are administered by DGMSThe mine managements are required to comply with these regulations, which have provisions for restrictions on mining activity around and under railway lines to guard against danger to railways from instability due to mining operations.

(c): The protection of railway lines is ensured by DGMS by providing for working beneath and within 45 meters of the railway acquired land only after receiving the No Objection Certificate from the Chief Mining Advisor, Railway Board. In case of working beneath railway acquired land permission is granted after joint inquiry meeting with railways and the mine management in which the effect of working on the stability of the railway acquired land is duly ensured.

(d): Yes, Sir.

(e): The DGMS have issued directives to the management of Bharat Cooking Coal Limited from time to time against danger from fire in close proximity of Dhanbad - Patherdih Railway line.This matter was also raised during bipartite and tripartite corporate level meetings with BCCL.